Orders for readymade garments

405. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the global importers are diverting orders for readymade garments from China to India in view of SARS;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more than 5 per cent of the orders belonging to China have come to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how India is thinking of consolidating this advantage in attracting more and more orders from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (d) No concrete date is available which suggests diversion of global orders for readymade garments from China to India in view of SARS. However, Government have been taking a number of measures for attracting more and more orders from other countries. Some of the important initiatives are:—

(i) the government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures.This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the textile products pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(vii) The government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme, (TCIDS) has been launched.

Strategy to increase export of handicrafts

†406. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted any new strategy to increase export of handicrafts products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also working for developing Bhagalpuri silk industry in Bihar and making it fit to earn profit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The new strategy adopted to increase export of handicrafts products include: tapping new and unexplored markets in LAC,CIS & African Markets; focussed export promotion programmes in strong markets of USA and EU countries; diversification of product line; quality improvement; hiring of services of reputed international & national designers; brand promotion; larger participation in fairs abroad; strengthing of Indian handicrafts and Gifts Fairs and setting up of India Exposition Mart at Greater Nodia.

(c) to (e) There is no special and separate scheme under implementation, for development of silk industry in Bihar. However, the Central Silk Board provides grants-in-aid under the centrally sponsored schemes namely Catalytic Development Porgramme (CDP) to various State Governments including the State of Bihar for developing silk industry.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.